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The Congregational Way

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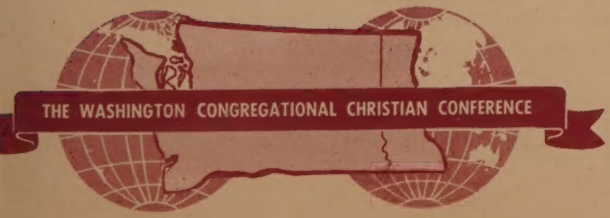

The Congregational Way

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LET US KEEP LENT

Archie H. Hook

Minister and Superintendent

Again we come to that season of thoughtfulness, that special time in our religious life when we search our hearts—LENT, with the surety of an Easter at its close.

To find the true meaning of Lent in our daily living there must come with it a real concern and effort to remove the evil facts and influences from the world's life, setting life everywhere on a high plane of honor and justice.

Jesus was impelled to go out to meet situations that he believed needed changing. He did not wait for things to happen. Studdert-Kennedy has expressed what Jesus unquestionably felt: "If you feel no longing to right wrong, to war against injustice and cruelty, to abolish ugliness and dirt, look out! You are standing on a rotten piece of ground; it will give way beneath you, and you will go down. No rites, no ceremonies, no soft music and stately ritual will avail to save you. They will go down with you, and you will stand by a broken altar and cry in vain for your comfortable Christ." There is no comfortable Christ. Essential to the understanding of Jesus and His Way is the recognition that things and people cannot and must not remain as they are, and that it is up to those who see this to go out and change them.

And so we seek to make Lent a time for ruthless self-examination, of ourselves, our religion, our national life, our world and its problems, that we may enter into a new life of service to God and man.

It was an ancient author who wrote: "What the soul is in the body, Christians are in the world, for the soul holds the body together, and Christians hold the world together."

As earnest Christians we need above all else to recapture the faith of the early Christians, that "Christ is all and in all." We need an experience such as came to the three disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration. There they saw their Master in glory. With Him were Moses and Elijah, the great leaders in law and prophecy. How natural the impulse that led them to cry, "Let us make here three tabernacles, one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But then, when their eyes were open, "they saw no man save Jesus only."

God grant us the grace, courage and wisdom necessary for today. The great days of Christianity will come, and the world will find the saving grace it so sorely needs, if we will all lift up our eyes and see "no man save Jesus only."

THE LOCAL CLIMATE IS IMPORTANT

David J. Julius,
Conference Moderator

The true Congregational church, it may be said, is characterized by a proper balance between Faith, Fellowship, and Freedom. Through the ministries of teaching and preaching we endeavor to cultivate and strengthen the faith of our church people. True to our Protestant heritage we insist on stressing the importance of freedom. But in many of our Congregational Christian churches, alas, our sense of fellowship leaves much to be desired. Within our Conference there are approximately 125 different churches with common objectives, similiar aspirations, but with limited opportunities for fellowship—acquaintance, mutual understanding, and exchange of personal and group experiences. The Every Church Visitation program last March successfully promoted this sense of fellowship among our churches in the Conference. It is hoped that more of our churches will share in this second annual Conference-wide visitation.

THE LOCAL CHURCH WILL BENEFIT in at least two ways, First, its minister in teaming up with a lay person from another church, and together visiting two or three churches in the area, will return to his parish and pulpit with renewed vigor and vision. And secondly, the lay person, too, will be inspired to tackle the toughest job that needs doing in the home church.

Participating churches need to prepare carefully. Bring the Every Church Visitation plan before the congregation or proper committee for discussion and approval. Agree upon a date, with a couple of possible alternates. Publicize the Visitation throughout the parish. Send representatives to the nearest training conference.

David J. Julius

THE LOCAL CLIMATE IS IMPORTANT. There is little we can do about the out-of-door weather in February, but much can be done in creating an atmosphere within that is hospitable and conducive to Christian fellowship—getting acquainted, understanding one another's problems, and sharing worthwhile experiences.

Let us use the fortnight of February 10—24 to strengthen and enrich our Christian fellowship.

"Of One Blood"

Acts 17:26

The following excerpts are from the message for Race Relations Sunday, February 10, from the National Council of Churches of Christ. The message was prepared by Dean Liston Pope of the Yale Divinity School.

"The whole world watches every denial of human brotherhood. The issue of race has become crucial in a time when men must learn to live as brothers if they are to live at all. In Asia and Africa non-white peoples are breaking old bonds of domination and are struggling toward equal status in the world. On occasion their aspirations are thwarted by newer and subtler forms of tyranny, but they will not be forever denied. The struggle for racial equality is a central aspect of the current conflict among the nations, and tyranny can hardly be defeated in one sphere unless it is rejected in every form, everywhere.

"The findings of science and the ideals of democracy agree with the Christian faith in proclaiming the unity and the essential equality of all men. But Christian faith goes deeper and bases its teaching on foundations that can never be shaken. It affirms that men are not only equal under God, but also brothers: 'For we are also his offspring.' He hath made us all of one blood; we are all kinsmen in the only family that shall endure forever. We are required therefore not only to tolerate one another, and to deal justly the one with the other; more profoundly, we must actually love each other. Because God our Father loves us all, our love must be without sham. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.'

God gives life to every man; for all men did Christ die and rise again. Under God every infraction of brotherhood will come to judgment; in Christ men are bound inseparably together.

"The faith we profess condemns all racial division and directs our feet toward a new way. The Christian churches have succumbed largely to racial lines. Now we are moving toward integration in a more blessed community. We must hasten: the times are urgent and our imperatives are clear.

"A time of testing has come for that greater faith which the centuries have not obscured: the assurance that we live and move and have our own true being in God the Father, whose offspring we are and whose redemptive love enables us to treasure all men as brothers."

To Work Aggressively With All People

The Church's Responsibility

by Lewis G. Watts in interview with Mrs. Mary Zimmerman

Mr. Lewis G. Watts is an active layman in the Olivet Congregational Church, serving at present as a member of the Board of Deacons. He is also the assistant moderator of the Seattle Association of Congregational churches, and a member of the Conference Social Action Committee. Serving as Executive Director of the Seattle Urban League, Mr. Watts is a valuable person in the field of race relations. As we prepare to observe Race Relations Sunday and Brotherhood Week, Mr. Watts makes some observations concerning the responsibility of our churches in this concern.

Has the Congregational church made significant contributions in this field?

Through the American Missionary Association, the Congregational church has contributed greatly to the education of the Negro. As a third generation Congregationalist, my family has certainly benefited from this work. When my grandfather was freed, he left Athens, Georgia, and moved to Atlanta to attend night school at Star School, sponsored by the AMA. The family has remained in Atlanta, being members of The First Congregational Church, and has lived in the same house since 1870.

What of your educational background?

I attended elementry school at Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia graduated from Morehouse College, Atlanta, in 1938; and graduated from the Atlanta University School of Social Work in 1940. All of these schools were operated by the American Missionary Association.

What of your work since then?

For two years I worked with the Boy Scouts in Houston, Texas; served in the army from 1942-45, and started working with the Seattle Urban League in 1947.

What is the present attitude of the church in race relations?

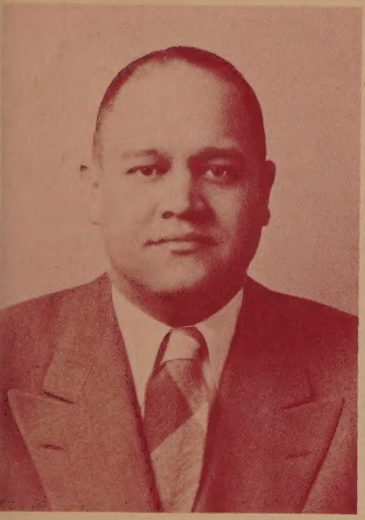
It is my observation that the church has good feeling about race relations. The specific things which have been done are important, but more significant is the revolution of attitudes. I think the work of the Fisk University Sociology Department has been outstanding in improving intergroup attitudes, for example in Minneapolis.

What of the church's effort toward interracial fellowships?

The introduction of non-whites into churches should be done in a natural fashion. Every effort should be made to get all people in the community to come into the church. When non-whites are members of the church, they shouldn't be looked upon as experts in race relations. This can be most embarrassing at times. The churches can individualize their treatment of non-whites and not generalize and use the stereotype thinking.

Has progress been made in Washington?

Progress has been made definitely in the last ten years in race relations in Seattle and in the state as a whole. I think the FEPC has



Lewis G. Watts

had a lot to do with it, although there is still room for improvement. Japanese, Filipinos, and Negroes who are trained are having to work below their training capacities.

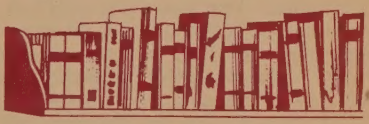
What is the major problem in race relations?

Housing . . . . . church members end to keep non-whites out of certain neighborhoods. Housing is difficult. If non-whites were made o feel at home, it would be much easier to work them into the hurches.

What is the responsibility of the hurch?

To go out and work aggressively ith and for all people. I don't ink the Congregational church has een evangelistic enough for all eople regardless of race or economic class. This was not true of e church up until the Civil War, t this is my observation of the church at the present time. Remember that all people are not the same and have different drives and different characteristics, but this does not erase the fact of brotherhood among all men. This fact places upon the Christian conscience the responsibility to make brotherhood a reality in the life of individuals and the community.

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF



Members of the Conference Library Committee recently engaged in a work session at the Conference Home. They are happy to announce that the library of the late Rev. William D. McDowell of the Green Lake Church has been given to the Conference Library. This collection is a valuable addition to the facilities, and appreciation is hereby expressed to the McDowell family for this gift.

In addition to the above mentioned the following new books have been added to the library:

OLDER PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH by Paul Maves; Abingdon-Cokesbury

BE GLAD YOU'RE A PROTESTANT by Harry C. Munro; Bethany Press

COMMUNISM, DEMOCRACY, AND CATHOLIC POWER by Paul Blanshard; Beacon Press

A LIFE OF JESUS by Edgar Goodspeed; Harper and Brothers.

News of the Churches

CUSICK and USK . . .

The Rev. and Mrs. Melvin Fenner and family began their work in this parish on January 15. The Fenner's come to the Washington Conference from the Congregational Church in Oswego, Oregon. We welcome them to our fellowship.

EVERETT . . .

Dr. Virgil Foster, Editor of The International Journal of Religious Education, was the guest of First Church on Friday, January 11 for a meeting with their church school staff, and again on the 13th for the morning service.

Reports at the annual meeting indicated a good response to the Every Member Canvass, and a renewed interest in the program of the church.

DAYTON . . .

The First Congregational Church is enjoying the use of new hymnals given by the Peringer family in memory of the late Mrs. J. L. Peringer.

Rev. Mr. Peringer represented his community at the Annual Meeting of the Council of Churches and the Pastor's Convocation.

KEYSTONE . . .

The Pebble Page reports that the Senior Class of the Church School with Mr. Alfred Dudel as teacher and counsellor have undertaken the job of collecting books, maps, pictures, records, and film strips for use in the various departments of the Church.

KELLOGG . . .

The John Hanchett reports that the Federated Church's Little Theatre Group has organized to produce the three act play "My Friend Irma" by James Reach. This play is adapted from the radio show and promises to be as entertaining as last year's performances of "People Are Funny."

Monthly Family Night programs are continuing and the various fellowship groups are going forward with their programs.

COLVILLE . . .

The First Congregational Church were hosts to an area meeting of young people from Chewelah, Ione and Metaline Falls, Newport, Cusick and Usk, on January 13. The Rev. Robert Pruitt is minister.

GREEN LAKE . . .

A newly organized group of younger married couples has adopted the name of the McDowell Homebuilders in honor of their late minister, William D. McDowell, who had worked toward such a group. The meetings are held the first Friday of each month, with a program of devotions and discussions.

The Beacon also reports many activities of the Pilgrim Fellowship group with the sponsorship of Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Ferong.

FAUNTLEROY . . .

Rev. Ira D. Black, Director of the City Work Department of the Division of Church Extension, will be the guest of Fauntleroy Church

February 17–24. Mr. Black will direct a Visitation Evangelism Campaign in which the Alki and Fairmont churches will join with the Fauntleroy people. Meetings will be at Fauntleroy.

First services in the new sanctuary were held on December 16, and a service of recognition of the contributions of all persons sharing in the building of the church was held on December 30. More than $30,000 was saved in building cost by volunteer work parties held for several months on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings. There is still much work to be done in finishing the facilities, and a service of dedication is planned for the spring. Rev. A. M. Lusk is minister.

Ira D. Black

OLIVET . . .

Members of this church are enjoying some new gifts for their chancel. The candle holders on the altar were made by Mr. Archie Lytle who used the wood from the maple tree which grew where the new building now stands. There are also paraments for the pulpit and lectern.

A cooperative weekday nursery school is a very valuable service which is rendered to the community. Mrs. Lewis G. Watts serves as supervisor, and she is assisted by able leadership.

BELLINGHAM . . .

A new couples club has been formed in this church with the express purpose of providing a church-centered group for the younger married group. Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Blair and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Key are serving as sponsors of the group. Recent reports give the response as highly encouraging.

Rev. W. Carl Calhoun, minister, represented the community at the annual meeting of the Council of Churches and presided at the sessions of the Pastor's Convocation.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

2 Pilgrim Fellowship, Conference Officers, Seattle

5 Christian Education Committee, Conference Home

8 Training Session, Every Church Visitation, Westminster Church; Spokane

9 Training session, Every Church Visitation, Plymouth Church; Seattle

10-17 Bob Inglis visits Conference

10-24 Every Church Visitation

An American in Scotland

Roland Schlueter

The Church in Scotland is old and rich in history. During my stay here I have worshipped a number of times in places which have been sites of Christian worship since the 6th century, and one of the churches in which I have preached dedicated its building in 1217. Yet Scottish churches, like our churches at home, are seeking to minister to people today.

Scotland is only a little more than half the size of our State of Washington, and most of its 5,000,000 people live in a narrow belt running from Glasgow to Edinburgh and north to Dundee. Of the total population, about 40% or 2,000,000 are members of the Church of Scotland, which has reunited nearly all of the many kinds of Presbyterians who were separate 100 years ago. Other denominations are all relatively small: about 50,000 Scottish Episcopalians, 35,000 Congregationalists, and smaller numbers of Methodists, Baptists, and the "wee Frees" and other Presbyterians

"Shetland Church" at Whiteness is typical of the remote areas of the North and of the islands.

who have not joined in the United Church of Scotland. There is a considerable number of Roman Catholics, especially in Glasgow and other nearby cities where there has been immigration from Ireland, and in a few parts of the Highlands and Islands which were never reached by the Reformation in 1560. Yet for all these statistics, the churches estimate that not more than 15% of the Scottish people are really active in any church. Especially in the cities one is apt to find a dozen large church buildings within a few blocks, but often with small congregations. Nearly all of them manage to hold two services every Sunday, and many of them are developing active programs during the week. To reach the 85% of the people who are inactive, they have made a good deal of use of co-operative programs of visitation evangelism, and also in providing special chaplains for the workmen in many of the larger industries.

The Iona Community in the Church of Scotland has made its special emphasis in reaching the people of industrial areas; and Principal Duthie of the Scottish Congregational College has been the outstanding leader in conducting special Summer missions at sea-side holiday camps.

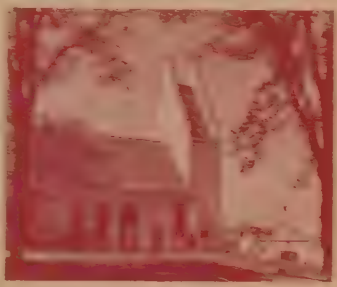
I've found Scottish people very friendly, as I've gone to preach in churches all over the country, from the English Border to the heart of the Highlands, and from city churches to little kirks out in the open countryside. Scottish congregations have impressed me with the way they enjoy singing; in all

he churches they still sing at east one metrical Psalm or a Scripture paraphrase in nearly very service, and usually at least our hymns in addition. Five "Sinnings" is the rule in most ervices, and they practically ever omit a stanza, even if the ymn has 7 or 8.

It will be good to be home again ext summer, but it has meant a reat deal to me to have been able o spend two years, along with tudents from 12 other countries, iving in this land and learning to now its people.

Exhibition Church" was built sev-al years ago for a Glasgow exhibi-on, and represents some of the ewer buildings which have been rected since 1925.

Editor's Note: Two years ago Rev. Roland Schlueter resigned his work as Associate Minister, First Congregational Church, Tacoma, to study at The University of Edinburgh. The Schlueters will have many interesting experiences to share with their friends when they return to the Northwest this summer.



Laymen's Fellowship Activities

Herbert R. Erickson
Conference Chairman

The Laymen's Fellowship of our onference is on the march again. xtensive plans are being laid for e strengthening of the local oups throughout the conference. In ddition, we are now going to augment our organization at the associa-ion level. This will be the ground-ork on which we will build our ans for the expansion of our mous SCHOOLS OF CHURCHMAN-HIP. In other words, our valuable perience in previous years has own that these schools are so eful and necessary that there is w a real need for making them allable to more laymen than were able to attend the schools as previously held only in Seattle and Spokane.

In the near future you will be participating in SCHOOLS OF CHURCHMANSHIP at several points throughout the Conference, with a minimum of one in each association.

Other plans include the more effective mobilization of the strength of our conference laymen by bringing up-to-date our list of Key Laymen. In the past we have rather narrowly used the term "Key Laymen" to indicate a particular individula in a church. This did not give proper recognition to the fact that in most churches there are a number of laymen, each worthy of representing our Christian ideals to the world. Accordingly, we are now asking now that such laymen make themselves known in order that we may all gain the strength that comes from the knowledge that we face the world, not alone, but in the company of a devoted group of Key Laymen.

News Briefs

Rev. Walter C. Tong, Candidate Secretary for The American Board, will be in our Conference for a few days in March. Mr. Tong would like to interview persons interested in teaching positions with The American Board, or those desiring to work in the medical or evangelistic fields. Persons interested in seeing Mr. Tong should write to Miss Christine Skelton at the Conference Office.

* * *

We note the following churches as 10% churches for the Advance:

Arlington
Bellingham
Colfax
Dayton
Deer Park
Everett
Richmond Beach
Tacoma, Plymouth
Walla Walla
Yakima

* * *

With the theme of, "Let the Church bear the witness," the Midwinter Meeting of The Missions Council was held at Cleveland, Ohio, January 21—25. Sessions for the various denominational boards; superintendents, educational directors, women's state presidents, chairmen of laymens work were held prior to the Missions Council meeting. Those attending from our Conference were Mesdames Clarence Murdey, William Cox, Theron Zimmerman, W. H. Harris; Mr. Herbert Erickson, Dr. Archie H. Hook, Mr. LeRoy Eide, and Miss Christine Skelton.

Traveling seminars in America Asia, Europe, Mexico, and Puerto Rico are being sponsored this spring and summer by the Board of Home Missions, the American Board, and the Council for Social Action. These seminars are for men women, and young people who want to gain first-hand information about religious, economic, social and political conditions at home and abroad. Cost ranges from $150 to $2500. Persons interested in more detailed information should contact the Conference Office.

* * *

The purpose of the 1952 united appeal for relief and reconstruction "One Great Hour of Sharing" is to raise funds for refugee and relief needs, for inter-church aid and other related types of service. The chief areas to be covered by the appeal are Korea, India, Palestine, and the refugee situation in Central Europe. The week of March 16—23 has been designated as the time of special emphasis, and Sunday March 23 will be observed as the "One Great Hour of Sharing." Our fellowship is seeking to raise $400,000 in this campaign.

* * *

Dr. Claton S. Rice, Seattle, was re-elected President of the Council of Churches of Washington and Northern Idaho at its annual meeting in January. Mrs. Norma Duncan of the Winslow church was re-elected as a member-at-large of the Council and Mr. LeRoy Eide of the Conference Staff continues as a member of the Activities Committee. Mr. Julius Baldwin of Pilgrim Church Seattle, shared in the Citation Award for his services with the Council programs.

Robert Inglis

Bob Inglis of Whittier, California, s visiting our Conference this nonth from the 10th through the 7th. He is President of the United Student Fellowship of Congregational Christian churches, and will isit with students at Whitman College, Walla Walla; Washington State College at Pullman; Eastern Washington College at Cheney; College f Puget Sound at Tacoma; Western Washington at Bellingham, and the niversity at Seattle.

* * *

The Northwest Regional Meeting ill be held at Pacific University, orest Grove, Oregon, August 25—0. Rev. Walter McGettigan of the edar Hills church, Oregon, is hairman. Dr. and Mrs. Stuart LeRoy nderson of the Pacific School of eligion, Berkeley, California; and iss Ione Catton of The Missions ouncil will be leaders.

The 1952 Western Pastors' School will be held at LaForet, Colorado Springs, Colorado, July 2nd to 30th. The school is designed for men who have been out of seminary for at least five years and others who are in the active pastorate, but deficient in their training. The school is sponsored by the Board of Home Missions. Eight scholarships are available to the Washington Conference. Persons interested should direct their applications to Dr. Archie H. Hook. Dr. Stanley U. North of New York serves as Dean of the school.

Take advantage of our club rates

PROGRESS AT ELTOPIA

With the development of the Columbia Basin Project, our fellowship has the responsibility of starting a church in the community of Eltopia in 1952. We are happy to report that through the leadership of the Rev. Donald Mills, a recent member of the Conference staff, a survey of this field was completed this fall and work is progressing.

The first service of worship for the community was conducted by Mr. Mills on Sunday, December 23. Church School classes have been started, and leadership recruited from the group and from the Congregational Church in Pasco.

As this work progresses there will be need for equipment and materials. Churches of our fellowship will be interested in assisting at this point. If you have materials which might be used, please contact Mr. Mills at the Conference Office for more specific information.

Lecropt Parish Church, Perthshire, is typical of the nicer village kirk in Scotland, though its architecture is more distinctly English. For other pictures of Scottish churches read "An American in Scotland" by Roland Schlueter in this issue.

Photographs of the churches were taken by the Rev. George Allan of the Cairns Manse, Lanark, who serves as the official photographer for the Church of Scotland.

As of January 10, the following churches have qualified for the club rate of 100 subscriptions or 20% of their membership.

Bellingham
Blaine
Carnation
Chewelah
Cusick and Usk
Ferndale, United
Ione
Kirkland
Metaline Falls
Monroe
Pasco
Pullman
Ralston
Richmond Beach
Steilacoom
Walla Walla
White Salmon
Tacoma, Pilgrim
Plymouth
Seattle, Beacon Hill
Fauntleroy
German
Green Lake
Japanese
Keystone
Olivet
Plymouth
University

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